

February 24, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Patrick Plantenberg
DEQ Environmental Management Bureau
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To: Dillon Tribune, Montana Standard, Madisonian, Bozeman Daily Chronicle,

RE: Preliminary 5-Year Reclamation Bond Determination and Proposed Partial Bond Release for Barretts Minerals Inc.'s Treasure Mine.

Dear Editor:

Please publish the following legal notice in the next issue of your newspaper:

LEGAL NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are conducting a five-year comprehensive reclamation bond review and a proposed partial bond release for Barretts Minerals Inc.'s (Barretts) Treasure Mine. The Treasure Mine is a talc mine located 15 miles northeast of Dillon in the Stone Creek Drainage in Madison County. The mine is located in Sections 10-15, 22 and 23 of Township 7South, Range 6 West. The review will update bonding requirements pursuant to Section 82-4-338(3) and (4), MCA, of the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA). Barretts is currently permitted under Operating Permit 00078 from DEQ and a Plan of Operation with the BLM.

Pursuant to the 5-year bond review, Barretts must have 60 days to negotiate with the agencies a preliminary bond determination. The agencies sent a draft preliminary bond determination to Barretts in December 2005. The agencies met with Barretts and reviewed its comments on the draft preliminary bond determination.

Barretts and its predecessors have mined talc in the Dillon area since the Barretts Mill was completed south of Dillon in 1955. The company hauls ore from the Treasure Mine in Madison County to the mill in Beaverhead County. Barretts has a 976-acre permit area of which 976 acres are permitted for disturbance. Current disturbance at the mine is 500 acres.

The agencies will now publish the preliminary bond determination in local newspapers and issue a press release seeking company and public comments. The current reclamation bond is \$4,593,000. The agencies propose to release \$479,671 of the current bond for reclamation work completed on the mine site. The agencies believe

that \$4,113,329 represents the costs of implementing the currently approved reclamation plan per the MMRA and the rules adopted under the MMRA.

Reclamation bonds may not be released or decreased until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. A copy of the bond calculations that form the basis for the preliminary bond determination can be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, P. O. Box 200901, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Patrick Plantenberg at (406) 444-4960 or e-mail at pplantenberg@mt.gov. Public comments or a request for a hearing should be submitted to the preceding address within 30 days of this publication. A final bond determination will be issued within 30 days of the close of the public comment period.

Attach an affidavit of publication and an original tear sheet date to your invoice.
Please reference EMB- 5036 119 on your invoice.

Mail to:

Sue Fairchild
Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Management Bureau
1520 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena MT 59620-0901

Sincerely,

Patrick Plantenberg
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau

cc: Jackie Windon, DEQ
Charles Freshman, DEQ

file: 00078.37 and .10